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The impact of language planning on the school education of the Udmurt language in the light of a minority native language pedagogical journal

Zsuzsanna Salánki (Eötvös Loránd University)

In modern societies, as a result of the social, cultural, and social changes that are induced by globalization and urbanization, the language use in schools and in particular the teaching of the native language, and the activities of the teachers play a decisive role in the survival of the language beside the language use within the family.

The subject of this study is the scientific-methodological journal Mother Language (Vordskem kyl) published in the Udmurt Republic, which is generally known not only among educational staff but also among the Udmurt speaking community. The journal has been published since 1990, with 10 issues per year. It can be found in all kindergartens, schools, and public libraries that teach the Udmurt language, and has a number of individual subscribers.

The journal is bilingual: it is mostly in Udmurt, with fewer writings and studies in Russian. Most of all, it is a knowledge-sharing platform for practicing teachers, as it publishes the teaching materials, lesson plans, general methodological writings, and new scientific results used in public education, i.e. preschool, primary and secondary education. Most of the authors are teachers actively working in public education, or university professors in a disciplinary or pedagogical field. In addition, they publish educational news, mainly about school events, new textbooks or other publications.

The main subject of my presentation are studies on methodological and educational policy of the journal, which aim to answer the following questions:

- What trends of change can be observed in the theme of the journal, in the materials published in the past decades? To what extent the following categories are published: (1) language and linguistic materials, (2) materials in literature, local history, regional knowledge, and (3) educational methodological materials aimed at general socialization?
- How does the fact that the number of children fluently speaking the Udmurt language or children with a native level proficiency is decreasing have an impact on the proportion of the topics above and their contents?

- Whether the laws, curricula, and other legal documents regarding language use, native language education, and educational work have an impact on the development of the proportion of the studies published in the journal, on the topic and the content of the articles?
- Can we observe the methodology of the development of balanced bilingualism in teaching activities and in the use of native languages at home, outside the school (for parents, grandparents) as an occurring theme, with special regard to linguistic myths opposing bilingualism?